

**TREE HEARING  
RIDGEWOOD ROAD  
THURSDAY NOVEMBER 20, 2014  
TIME: 4:30 P.M.  
WATER/SEWER DEPARTMENT  
MIDDLETOWN CONNECTICUT**

**Present:** Jane Harris – Chair, Urban Forestry Commission  
Dana Whitney – City Arborist/Forester  
Charles Jones – Resident, 1022 Ridgewood Road  
Marta Kuczek – Resident, 1022 Ridgewood Road  
Mr. Passinessi – Resident, 1006 Ridgewood Road

**Staff Present:** William J. Russo – Public Works Director, Tree Warden  
James Sipperly – Staff, Urban Forestry Commission

**INTRODUCTION:**

William Russo introduced himself as Director of Public Works and Tree Warden. He explained the process involving tree removal. He indicated his knowledge on the emails concerning the tree removal that were sent between Jane Harris and Marta Kuczek. The trees themselves were brought to my attention from Westfield Fire Department and the homeowners nearby.

A similar situation occurred out on West Lake Drive where 180 trees were removed. Director Russo stated that he always looks to speak Jane Harris or Dana Whitney in these situations for replanting. The new trees will be set back, not along the road. The current trees give off shade that causes road icing in the winter. Trucks, busses and CL&P will be less likely to damage any of the trees.

Director Russo wanted to make the residents that were involved in protesting the removal of the trees aware of the process for removal. After posting the trees, Dana Whitney then goes out to assess the area and give a report. Marta Kuczek stated that she has seen the report and that she just wanted to make sure that the initial letter of protest was submitted and that the City incorporated all of their options.

**PLAN OF ACTION:**

Jane Harris mentioned that it is anticipated that the trees will be removed soon, but the re-planting will not occur until the spring time. Her recommendation for tree size will be no bigger than 2.5" caliber because they root the best and do not suffer as much when they're planted. She believes that planting Dogwood trees would be best due to their size and coloring in the spring and fall.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

It was suggested by Charles Jones that the trees be planted farther off of the road. Director Russo stated that Jane Harris is in agreement and that the homeowners will be included in the decision for setbacks.

Mr. Passinessi of 1006 Ridgewood Road stated that he would like to make everyone aware of the bad corner that exists near his house. The trees and shrubs should be set back keeping in mind the possible future renovations towards cutting the corner of the road.

Marta inquired about the quantity of trees that are going to be planted and how far they are going to be spaced apart. Jane reassured her that there will probably be about half as many as there were, with much more space in between them so that there is room for them to grow underground.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The protesting party is now in acceptance with the removal of trees on Ridgewood Road and has withdrawn their objection. As there was no further discussion, the tree hearing was adjourned by Jane Harris at 4:44 P.M. Motion was seconded and approved unanimously.